



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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August 30, 2007

PSA-101

## Discover the Secrets of Salamanders at Riverbend Park

The rapid growth of agriculture, industry and urban development is dramatically changing the natural environment and threatening the health of amphibians like frogs and salamanders. On Saturday, September 15, 2007 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Fairfax County Park Authority will conduct a salamander survey at Riverbend Park in Great Falls to assess the size of their population. After monitoring salamander numbers for over five years, the park has created an educational program which compliments the annual count and invited the public to participate.

Naturalists will lead participants in catching, identifying and counting salamanders living in and along two streams within the park. Up to a dozen different species of salamanders can be found hiding under rocks, logs and in the water. Last year, the survey discovered a long-tailed salamander, the first one ever documented in Fairfax County. What unexpected find awaits you?

This program is appropriate for children ages eight years and older. Due to limited space, reservations and prepayment are required. The cost is \$5 per person.

After the survey, stop by the Visitor Center to see interesting nature exhibits or purchase an educational book or toy. Grab a tasty treat from the snack bar and find a picnic table in the shade to enjoy the spectacular river views.

Riverbend Park is located at 8700 Potomac Hills St. in Great Falls. For reservations or information about the survey program, please call 703-759-9018. For more information about Riverbend Park, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/>.

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